



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING

**GEOLOGIST LICENSING BOARD
MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

DATE: June 30, 2015
TIME: 8:00 AM
LOCATION: LOTT Clean Water Alliance
500 Adams St NE
Olympia, WA 98501

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Mitchell, HG; Chair
Dave Norman, EG, HG; Vice Chair
William Ernst, LG; Secretary
Brian Beaman, EG, HG; Chair
Greg Wessel, EG; Member
Sandy Letzing, Public Member

STAFF PRESENT: Lorin Doyle, Administrator
Rick Storvick, Assistant Administrator
Autumn Dryden, Administrative Assistant
Julia Gambrel, Licensing Manager
Jeremiah Wedding, Management Analyst

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Neugebauer
John Smoot
Cindy Alia

ABSENT: Gene St. Godard, HG; Member

1. Call to Order 8:01 AM

- 1.1 Introduction of new board members, staff and visitors. Mr. Wessel was introduced as the board's newest member.

1.2 Order of agenda

Mr. Ernst made a MOTION to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Beaman seconded the MOTION and it passed.

1.3 Approval of minutes – March 3, 2015

Mr. Ernst suggested changing the word “importance” to “requirement” in an action item regarding outreach to allied professions.

Mr. Norman made a MOTION to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. Beaman seconded the MOTION and it passed.

Action: Ms. Dryden will update the minutes as requested.

1.4 Review communications

No business.

2. Public Comment Opportunity

Mr. Neugebauer, Mr. Smoot, and Ms. Alia addressed the board regarding citizens' property rights and their concerns about how the board has addressed complaints filed by Mr. Neugebauer against individuals who review his reports without a geologist license. Board members did not respond to the public comment.

3. New Business

3.1. Geologist Licensing: Experience in lieu of education for 1st time licensees and reciprocity candidates

The board discussed the question – should geologist licensing applicants be allowed to offer experience in lieu of education? Mr. Mitchell shared some background information that led to the question and staff shared information about other licensing programs that allow some experience to substitute for education. Because the minimum requirements for licensure are in WAC, the requirements can be changed through the rule writing process.

Action Item: Staff will draft sample language for rule writing.

3.2. Licensed geologists and well construction

The board discussed the historical overlap in scope of practice between geology and well drilling. RCW 18.104.180 lists licensed professionals who are exempt from licensing as a well-driller; however, the well-drilling predates geologist licensing. Mr. Ernst suggested inviting well-drillers to attend a board meeting to share information and discuss the overlap in practice.

Action Items: Mr. Ernst and Mr. St. Godard will invite well-drillers to a future board meeting.

4. Old Business

4.1. Master action items list

Action items from this meeting were reviewed and added to the master action items list.

4.2. Outreach schedule

The board reviewed the outreach schedule and discussed upcoming events. Mr. Ernst will attend the ASBOG Council of Examiners in November 2015.

Board members discussed the best way to reach students to talk about geologist licensing. In addition to possibly contacting Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG) student chapters, Mr. Mitchell distributed a list of talking points and information he shares with students at Western Washington University. He suggested contacting schools and finding a faculty member interested in being a licensing champion.

Action Item: Mr. Mitchell will make initial contact with Washington colleges and universities to discuss licensing, and other board members will follow-up with those specific contacts.

The board also discussed outreach to local governments and the possibility of attending planner forums, submitting articles for publication in other entity's newsletters, and attending conferences as speakers.

Action Item: Mr. Wessel will prepare a list of talking points to share with local governments.

4.3. Follow-up correspondence

4.3.1. ASBOG exam deadline change

Staff shared a letter from ASBOG moving the spring Fundamentals of Geology examination to the third week in March. This allows board staff to move the exam registration deadline from December to January. Moving these deadlines gives more students the opportunity to register for the spring exam because they will have their fall transcripts, which are required when applying to sit for the exam.

4.3.2. California-Washington reciprocity

Staff shared a letter from the California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists indicating the California Board approved acceptance of the Washington State-Specific Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology examinations as equivalent to the California State-specific Certified Engineering Geologist or Certified Hydrogeologist examinations for the purpose of certification by comity.

4.3.3. Response to Mr. Neugebauer

Board staff shared a letter sent to Mr. Neugebauer from board chair Beaman on March 11 in response to an email he sent January 12. Mr. Beaman worked with board staff and the board's Advising Assistant Attorney General on the letter. After the board reviewed the letter, Mr. Neugebauer addressed his concerns with the board's response.

5. Complaint Cases for Review*

No business.

6. Legal Issues for Deliberation*

No business.

7. Disciplinary and Investigation Reports

7.1. Closed session deliberation report (only necessary if closed session is held)

7.2. Disciplinary cases report
Packet item; no action.

8. Assistant Attorney General's report

No business.

9. Committee/Task Force Reports

9.1. Specialty exam committee updates
Staff has been working with committee members to edit exam questions.

10. Board Administrator's Report

10.1. Program Operations
10.1.1. Legislative update
Standard report; no action.

10.1.2. Financial report
Standard report; no action.

10.1.3. Licensing and application statistics
The board reviewed the standard licensing report and statistics.

Action Item: Board staff will report the number of pending applications by gender at the next board meeting.

10.2. Department of Licensing

Ms. Doyle announced that Jeremiah Wedding was leaving the Regulatory Boards Section for a promotion within the Department of Licensing.

10.3. Other items

No business.

11. Other Business

11.1. Action Items from this meeting

Action items were reviewed and will be added to the master action items list.

11.2. Agenda Items for next meeting

- Rule writing workshop
- Well exemption discussion

11.3. Any other business

No business.

12. Adjourn Business Meeting 9:23 AM

Submitted by: _____
Lorin Doyle, Administrator Date _____

Approved by: _____
Robert Mitchell, Board Chair Date _____